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The situation in the Middle East

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Fifty-ninth year

Letter dated 4 August 2004 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I provide you with the following summary of Israeli violations and acts of aggression against Lebanon:

Between 2225 and 2330 hours on 10 July 2004 Israeli enemy forces fired two illumination flares over Lebanese territory from one of their positions opposite the Wazzani region.

At 1540 hours on 11 July 2004 an Israeli gunboat in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah fired a number of rounds over the territorial waters. It returned between 2030 and 2330 hours and fired a number of illumination flares and rounds of fire in the direction of the said waters.

Between 0043 and 0420 hours on 12 July 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Damur and circled between Damur, Beirut and Sidon as well as over the sea at a distance of 5 miles from the coast, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0645 and 0840 hours on the same day an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew north-east over the sea off Sidon at a distance of 4 miles from the coast as far as a point west of Na`imah at a distance of 4 miles from the coast, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1110 and 1500 hours on the same day military aircraft overflew the occupied Shab`a Farms area at extremely high altitude. Between 2100 and 2115 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew the said area.

Between 0050 and 0530 hours on 13 July 2004, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli gunboat fired a number of bursts over the territorial waters. Returning between 1240 and 1445 hours, it fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons over the said waters.

Between 1045 and 1100 hours on 13 July 2004 four Israeli warplanes overflew the sea off Shikka at a distance of 12 miles from the coast, heading towards Shikka,

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flew over Shikka, Tripoli and Al-Arz (the Cedars), then returned in the direction of Byblos (Jubayl) and Beirut, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1345 hours on 13 July 2004 Israeli enemy forces strafed the area around their position at Ruwaysat al-Alam, within the occupied Shab'a Farms area, with medium-weapons fire.

Between 2125 and 2200 hours on the same day two Israeli helicopters overflew the occupied Shab'a Farms.

At 1835 hours on 14 July 2004, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli gunboat fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons and an illumination flare over the territorial waters.

At 1400 hours on 15 July 2004 in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli gunboat fired an illumination flare over the territorial waters. Returning between 1135 and 2320 hours, it fired a number of rounds from medium-calibre weapons and an illumination flare over the said waters.

At 1850 hours on 15 July 2004 Israeli enemy forces strafed the area around their position on Radar hill, within the occupied Shab'a Farms area, with medium-weapons fire.

Between 2120 and 2359 hours on 15 July 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off the Damur region at a distance of 12 miles from the coast, heading towards Beirut, then circled between Beirut and Damur and between Sidon and Beirut over the sea at a distance of 5 miles from the coast, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 0700 and 1023 hours on 16 July 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Sidon heading in the direction of Beirut; reached a point west of Khaldah at a distance of 4 miles from the coast; headed out over the sea west of Khaldah at a distance of 5 miles from the coast; and circled between Khaldah and Beirut over the sea at a distance of 5 miles from the coast, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1155 and 1230 hours on 16 July 2004, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli gunboat fired a number of rounds over the territorial waters. Returning between 1945 and 2220 hours, it fired a number of bursts over the said waters.

At 2344 hours on 18 July and at 2109 hours on 19 July 2004, in the open sea off Ra's Naqurah, an Israeli gunboat fired an illumination flare over the territorial waters.

Between 2140 and 0040 hours on the night of 18-19 July 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the sea off Sidon at an altitude of 24,500 feet, then circled over the sea between Sidon and Khaldah at a distance of 5 miles from the coast, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 2045 and 2125 hours on the same date two Israeli helicopters overflew the sea off Ra's Naqurah, violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1025 and 1135 hours on 20 July 2004 an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft flew at extremely high altitude over the Tibnin region. Between 1217 and 1545 hours on the same date, another Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the

region of Rumaysh, heading towards the village of Alma al-Sha`b, and circled between those two areas, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1410 and 1810 hours on the same date an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area of Alma al-Sha`b and Rumaysh, circled over them and over the area of Bint Jubayl, Juwayya and eastern Tyre at a distance of 5 miles from the coast, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1725 and 1840 hours on the same date an Israeli reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area of Rumaysh and circled over the region of Bint Jubayl, Juwayya, Ma`rakah and Qana, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

Between 1858 and 1923 hours on the same date two Israeli warplanes overflew the sea off Sidon heading towards Beirut, broke the sound barrier over the capital and headed towards Byblos (Jubayl), whereupon they circled over the sea. They then turned back in the direction of Beirut, over which they again broke the sound barrier, then headed out over the sea, thus violating Lebanese airspace.

At 1115 hours on 20 July 2004 Israeli enemy forces fired a tank shell from their position opposite the town of Ramiyah. The shell landed outside the village of Ayta al-Sha`b, in the locality known as Ruwaysat al-Hadab, causing the death of a member of the resistance.

At 1130 hours on the same date, reconnaissance aircraft overflew the areas of Rashaf and Bra`shit, while a warplane flew along the border. At 1135 hours Israeli enemy forces fired three tank shells from their position on Ramta hill in the occupied Shab`a farmlands, all of which fell in the area around Birkat al-Naqqar, in the said farmlands.

Between 1210 and 1255 hours on the same date two Israeli enemy helicopters overflew the villages of Ramiyah and Qawzah and fired five air-to-ground rockets at Tallat al-Khazzan and Ruwaysat al-Hadab, on the outskirts of the village of Ayta al-Sha`b. The shelling resulted in the outbreak of fires, which members of the Civil Defence worked to extinguish.

At 1300 hours on the same date, flying of military aircraft, gunship helicopter bombing and artillery strafing on Jabal Balat, between the villages of Marwahin and Ramiyah, were recorded. At 1330 hours an Israeli gunship helicopter fired an air-to-ground rocket at Tallat al-Kharrab, on the outskirts of Ayta al-Sha`b, without causing any significant losses.

These grave violations are part of a series of persistent and provocative Israeli violations of Lebanese territory, including air, sea and land, and go against the principles of international law, the resolutions of international legitimacy and your repeated calls for their cessation.

In view of these violations and the stepping-up of Israeli threats to Lebanon and the safety of its territory and its citizens, Lebanon calls upon the Security Council to deter and prevent Israel from such dangerous acts, which pose a threat to international security and peace. Lebanon places upon Israel full responsibility for any consequences to which those acts may give rise.

In drawing your attention to the gravity and possible consequences of such acts, I request to have this letter of complaint circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ibrahim **Assaf**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.